

## Black History Month Features Guests

An appearance by the actor who played Debo in the blockbuster film *Friday* and a theatrical presentation by former Western faculty member Al Wiggins are among the events scheduled for Western's Black History Month celebration in February.

Wiggins, a veteran actor with many television and movie roles to his credit, retired from Western's faculty in 2001, but he will return to campus to present "Us and Ours," a compilation of material from several of his plays, at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 20, in the recital hall of Coulter Building.

The founder of WCU's Black Theatre Ensemble, Wiggins was recognized for his contributions to human relations in the state with a North Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence in 2001.

Another actor with more than forty feature films to his credit will visit campus on Wednesday, February 26. Tommy "Tiny" Lister will speak at 7 p.m. in the Grandroom of the University Center.

Lister, also an executive producer, model, spokesperson, and philanthropist, reached national celebrity status in the wrestling world as Zeus, Hulk Hogan's longtime nemesis. Lister then entered acting and played the character Debo in *Friday*, F. Gary Gray's urban film that crossed color lines and achieved cult status.

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## The Fantasticks Takes Stage New Musical Theatre Professor To Make WCU Directorial Debut

An evening of traditional romantic comedy awaits the audience as Western's University Players present *The Fantasticks*, the first production for the university's new musical theatre program.

*The Fantasticks* is the timeless tale of a boy and a girl whose fathers stage a phony feud in order to bring their children together. The couple discovers the matchmaking ploy, thus dampening the budding relationship. This wrinkle in the plans and the consequences make for what critics call a delightful and entertaining production. The play is filled with familiar songs, including "Try to Remember," "Never Say No," and "Beyond that Road."

The show runs Wednesday, February 26, through Saturday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m. and on March 1 and 2 at 2 p.m. in Hoey Auditorium.

Dennis Jackson, Phillips Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre, is directing his first musical at Western. Jackson was the longtime director of the lyric theatre program at the University of Colorado before coming to Western last fall. As the first to hold the distinguished professorship, Jackson is leading a program of study designed to provide students with practical, work-related experiences for building skills needed in both music and theatre.

Brad Martin, visiting instructor of music, is the conductor and music director, and Ginger Poole, part-time dance instructor, is the choreographer.

As a bonus, a special brown-bag preview will be held on February 25 at noon in the recital hall of Coulter Building. Excerpts from the production will be presented; however, the actors will not be in costumes. Jackson will lead a



Meddling fathers who think their children should get together hire El Gallo (played by Ernie Widenhouse), center, to stage an abduction of Luisa (Crystal Waters), intending for Matt (Josh Walls) to become her hero when he rescues her. The plan works—almost.

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# Western To Hold Regional Summit To Seek Shared Priorities, Strategies

Leaders from throughout Western North Carolina will meet at Western Carolina University on Friday, February 21, for a daylong summit to identify the greatest needs of the state and the region and to pinpoint how Western can help address those needs.

"We are striving to create an 'engaged' university," Western Chancellor John W. Bardo said. "To be a university whose faculty, students, staff, and administrators understand and are fully committed to meeting the needs of the state and the WNC region, we must develop a common understanding of our highest, shared priorities. That means as a university, we must first ask and listen."

Titled "A Regional Summit: Meeting Western North Carolina's Needs through Higher Education," the program will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Ramsey Regional Activity Center. Guests invited to come and share their views include municipal, county, and state government officials; business and industry leaders; and school superintendents and principals.

North Carolina Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight will be the keynote speaker. Also presenting on the program will be Phil Kirk, president and secretary of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry and chairman of the State Board of Education; Mary Jo Waits, associate director of The Morrison Institute

for Public Policy Research at Arizona State University and nationally recognized expert on university engagement in helping solve state problems; and Greg Bischak, chief economist with the Appalachian Regional Commission.

After the presentations to the full assembly, smaller discussion groups will focus on areas such as government, tourism, utilities and infrastructure, business, schools, community colleges, health care, biotechnology, communication technology, engineering, media, emerging sciences, the criminal justice system, social services, diversity issues, environment/natural resources/development, and aging.

Questions the groups will discuss will center on top priorities, immediate needs, long-term needs, and identifying directions Western Carolina might take to provide assistance.

"We regard the conference as a key step to identifying the greatest needs of the region and the state," Bardo said. "We know this effort requires not only excellence in teaching and in programs that contribute to economic development, but also in collaboration with our key constituencies. It is the beginning of a broader dialogue, with profound implications for the future."

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Lister's debut as executive producer came in the HBO telefilm *Judgment Day*, in which he played the sidekick to a priest, portrayed by Mario Van Peebles. He was a co-star in the Adam Sandler film *Little Nicky*, released in fall 2000, and, most recently, Lister has completed filming a children's morning television pilot called "On the Ropes."

## LCE Event

Jane Elliott, creator of the "Blue Eyes, Brown Eyes" discrimination experiment, will present a lecture on "The Anatomy of Prejudice" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 18, in the recital hall of Coulter Building. Elliott has lectured on many college campuses and has been a guest on many television shows to discuss the "Blue Eyes, Brown Eyes" sensitizing exercise, in which participants are labeled inferior or superior based on the color of their eyes.

Black History Month events are free, except for the February 18 Jane Elliott lecture, which is presented as part of Western's *Lectures, Concerts and Exhibitions Series*. Admission to the Elliott lecture is \$2 for WCU students with valid identification; \$3 for senior citizens, WCU faculty and staff, and non-WCU students; and \$5 for the general public.

For more information about Black History Month activities, contact Dwaun Warmack in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 227-2276.

## Musical Theatre, continued from page 1

discussion of the play, and audience members will be treated to a performance of some of the play's favorite songs. There is no charge for this session. "We want to tease the audience so they will want to see the entire production," said Jackson.

The small cast includes Ernie Widenhouse as El Gallo, the narrator; Crystal Waters as the girl, Luisa; Josh Walls as the boy, Matt; Kyle Burkett as the boy's father, Huck; Daniel Rohrig as the girl's father, Bellomy; Damien Marts as the actor, Henry; Scott Needham as Mortimer, the man who dies; and Courtney Bechnell and Courtney Cunningham as the mutes. "The students have been working very hard on the project," said Jackson.

Auditions were held early, in late October and early November. "This gives the actors time to work on diction, music, and characterization," said Jackson. "I am treating this like a professional group." Until the beginning of this semester, the actors worked with the music and dialogue coaches and did dialogue rehearsals. Staging of the play began in mid-January.

The two-hour play, plus intermission, is being done traditionally, with a minimal set, similar to what would be used in New York. Orchestration features a piano, percussion, harp, and double bass.

Originally staged at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in Greenwich Village in New York in 1960, the play continued for forty-two years, ending with 17,162 performances at the theatre. The play has been performed in 2,000 cities and in every state. More than 11,103 productions have been done in the United States, including the White House and Ford's Theatre. Worldwide, 700 productions have been done in sixty-seven countries.

Ticket prices for the play are \$15 for adults, \$12.50 for senior adults, and \$6 for students. For more information contact the communication and theatre department at 227-7491.

## Monday, February 17

Open forum—report on current status of university planning for information technology, including new Division of Information Technology. 3–4:30 p.m. Room 239, Forsyth Building. (227-7487)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. College of Charleston. Southern Conference game, 7 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

## Tuesday, February 18

Training Tuesday—"Time Management III: Taking Control of Your Workday." Professional Development Track. Participants must attend all three sessions to receive credits. 2–4:30 p.m., Room 404, BB. (227-2388)

Lecture—*Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions Series* presents "The Anatomy of Prejudice," by Jane Elliott, creator of the blue eyes/brown eyes education experiment of the '60s, 7:30 p.m., RH. \$ (227-7206)

## Wednesday, February 19

Recital—Technology Ensemble, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Thursday, February 20

Open forum—report on current status of university planning for information technology, including

# WCU Calendar

February 17–March 3, 2003

Look for regular updates on the university's Web site at [www.wcu.edu/cal.html](http://www.wcu.edu/cal.html)

new Division of Information Technology, 12:30–1:45 p.m., Room 239, Forsyth Building. (227-7487)

## Friday, February 21

Summit—WCU hosts regional conference, 10:30 a.m., RRAC.

## Saturday, February 22

Catamount baseball—vs. Wright State, noon and 3 p.m. (doubleheader), CF/HS. (227-7338)

Catamount basketball—vs. East Tennessee State, Southern Conference game, 7 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

## Sunday, February 23

Catamount baseball—vs. Wright State, 1 p.m., CF/HS. (227-7338)

## Monday, February 24

Catamount basketball—vs. Wofford, Southern Conference game, 7 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

Recital—Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Tuesday, February 25

Training Tuesday—"Effective Business Communication." 9–11 a.m., Room 186, Hunter Library. (227-2388)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Appalachian State, Southern Conference game, 7 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

Recital—Trumpet Studio, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## Wednesday, February 26– Sunday, March 2

Theatre—The University Players present *The Fantasticks* by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, the longest running, most frequently produced musical of all time, 7:30 p.m. through Saturday

and 2 p.m. weekend matinees. HA. \$ (227-7491)

## Friday, February 28

Conference—WCU Women's Studies presents "Gender Across the Lifespan," 9 a.m.–4 p.m., UC. (227-3839)

Orientation—for new faculty, 3:15–5 p.m., Hospitality Suite, RRAC. (227-7495)

Recital—music students, 8 p.m., RH. (227-7242)

## March

### Saturday, March 1

Catamount baseball—vs. Liberty, noon and 3 p.m. (doubleheader), CF/HS. (227-7338)

Lady Catamount basketball—vs. Furman, Southern Conference game, 4 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

Catamount basketball—vs. UT Chattanooga, Southern Conference game, 7 p.m., RRAC. (227-7338)

### Sunday, March 2

Catamount baseball—vs. Liberty, 2 p.m., CF/HS. (227-7338)

Concert—*Friends and Family*, featuring Sheila Kay Adams, Mary Jane Queen, and Melanie Rice, 3 p.m., MHC. (227-7129)

## Submissions:

Send news items and calendar notices to WCU Calendar, 1601 Ramsey Center, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina 28723 or e-mail to [Reporter@email.wcu.edu](mailto:Reporter@email.wcu.edu).

Submit items for the university's online calendar at least one week prior to the event.

## ★★★ Now Showing ★★★

### Exhibitions:

**North Carolina Women Making History.** The trials, triumphs, and changing roles of women during the past 400 years. Through December. MHC. (227-7129)

**Migration of the Scotch-Irish People.** (Permanent exhibition). Information, illustrations, artifacts, and murals. MHC. (227-7129)

**Asheville Quilt Guild Presents.** Colorful array of traditional, art, antique, and award-winning quilts made by members of Asheville Quilt Guild. Through March 31, MHC. (227-7129)

**By Design: Alumni Design Exhibition.** Through February 26. Closing reception February 26, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Belk Gallery, BB. (227-3591)

**Karl Michel and Patricia Bailey: New Faculty Exhibition.** Opening March 3. Through April 18. BB. (227-3591)

**Much Ado.** Featuring sculpture class installation. Through March 6. Chelsea Gallery, UC. (227-7206)

**Key:** \$ - Admission fee; HA - Hoey Auditorium; HFR - H.F. Robinson Administration Building; HS/CF - Hennon Stadium/Childress Field; MHC - Mountain Heritage Center; NSA - Natural Sciences Auditorium; RRAC - Ramsey Regional Activity Center; RH - Recital Hall, Coulter Building; BB - Belk Building; UC - A.K. Hinds University Center; UOC - University Outreach Center; WS/BW - Whitmire Stadium/Bob Waters Field; SSF - Shrader Soccer Field.

# WCU Newsfile

▲ Harold Williford, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, received the W.W. Rankin Memorial Award for Excellence in Mathematics Education at the annual state conference of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The statewide organization bestowed its highest honor on Williford in recognition of his twenty-seven years of exemplary service to mathematics education in North Carolina.

▲ Writer-in-Residence Dawn Karima Pettigrew's play *The Marriage of Saints* was performed at the Third Annual Sacramento Solo Festival, by California Stage, January 17–February 9. The play is based on an excerpt from Pettigrew's second novel by the same name.

▲ Mark Ellison, assistant director of admissions for community college relations, presented "Building Seamless Transitions for Transfer Student Success" at the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students, January 28-31, at the University of North Texas.

▲ A.J. Grube, assistant professor of health and human performance, Stephen B. Jarrell, professor of management and international business, and Robert F. Mulligan, assistant professor of economics, had their article "Baseball Card Pricing Model: A Demonstration with Well-known Players" accepted

for publication by *Visions in Leisure and Business*. The paper will appear in a special issue devoted to sports memorabilia.

▲ Robert F. Mulligan, assistant professor of economics, and Gary A. Lombardo, professor of maritime business at the United State Merchant Marine Academy, had their article "Resource Allocation: A Hayekian Paradigm for Maritime Conglomerates" accepted for publication by the *Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics*.

▲ William Perry, professor of business computer information systems, presented "Defending Government Information Systems Infrastructure in the Digital Domain" at the Government Technology Conference Southwest in Austin, Texas.

▲ James H. Murphy, assistant professor of business computer information systems, presented "Are Donors to Environmental Causes Rational? An Experimental Study Using a Revealed Preference Metric" at the seventy-second annual Conference of the Southern Economic Association. Murphy also chaired and participated in the Southern Economic Association session "Economic Analysis of Energy Markets."

## Nominations Due

Nominations for the Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Awards are due by **noon, Tuesday, February 18**. For more information, contact Harrison Kane, assistant professor of psychology, at 227-3370.

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